

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANDRE L. HART,

Plaintiff,

v.

J. CELAYA, et al.,

Defendants.

No. C 06-02519 CW (PR)

ORDER GRANTING
DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS
FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
(Docket nos. 34, 81)

Plaintiff Andre L. Hart is a state prisoner, incarcerated at Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP) when he filed this pro se civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. He alleges that, on March 10, 2005, Defendants Alfred Aguirre, Frank Colburn, Joseph Celaya, Ernie Camarena and Christopher Salopek were involved in an incident in which they (1) used excessive force against Plaintiff and (2) were deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs. The incident entailed Plaintiff's placement in a holding cell, exposure to pepper spray, and subsequent decontamination.

All Defendants move for summary judgment. Plaintiff opposes Defendants' motions. For the reasons discussed below, the Court GRANTS Defendants' motions.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On April 11, 2006, Plaintiff filed his complaint against Defendants Aguirre, Colburn, Celaya, Camarena, Salopek, E. Pulido and Does. On November 1, 2006, the Court issued a screening order finding that Plaintiff had alleged a cognizable claim of excessive force against Defendants Celaya, Colburn, Camarena, Salopek and Aguirre; and that he had alleged a cognizable claim of deliberate indifference to his medical needs against Defendants Colburn, Camarena, Salopek and Aguirre. The Court dismissed without prejudice Plaintiff's claims against Defendants Pulido and Does, and dismissed his official capacity claims. The Court ordered the complaint served on Defendants.

Defendants Celaya, Camarena and Salopek moved for summary judgment (docket no. 34). Later, Defendants Aguirre and Colburn moved for summary judgment (docket no. 81). Plaintiff opposed both motions. Defendants Celaya, Camarena and Salopek replied.

On July 12, 2007, the Court referred the case to a magistrate judge for discovery purposes. The magistrate judge ordered Defendants to produce Plaintiff's medical and central file for Plaintiff's review. The magistrate judge also ordered Defendants to produce several documents for in camera review, as follows:

(1) any complaints claiming any Defendant used improper or excessive force from January 1, 2001 to January 1, 2006; (2) SVSP policies and operational procedures related to the use of force; (3) Use of Force Critique for the incident, number SVP-FC7-05-03-0136; and (4) Modification Order, corresponding memorandum, and Confidential Supplement for the inmate appeal, log number SVSP-D-

1 05-01465. Because the magistrate judge determined that the
2 submitted documents would qualify for an "attorneys' eyes only"
3 protective order, and because Plaintiff is proceeding pro se, the
4 Court has reviewed the documents and has taken into consideration
5 any information supporting Plaintiff's claims.

6 FACTUAL BACKGROUND

7 I. SVSP Policies

8 According to SVSP policy, "if an inmate is accused of exposing
9 himself or masturbating in the presence of a prison official or
10 medical professional, then he is promptly rehoused to
11 Administrative Segregation [ad seg] and will be issued a Rules
12 Violation Report for sexual harassment."¹ (Celaya Decl. ¶ 8;
13 Mensing Decl. ¶ 3.)

14 Prior to being placed in ad seg, inmates are placed in holding
15 cells. In order to check for contraband items in their body
16 cavities and clothing, inmates must submit to an unclothed body
17 search. (Camarena Decl. ¶ 5.) An unclothed body search entails
18 "stripping out of all your clothes, run[ning] your fingers through
19 your hair, through your mouth, lifting your genitals, turning
20 around, coughing, lifting up the heel [sic] of your feet, totally
21 naked, while [prison officials] stand there and observe you and
22 shine a flashlight." (Pl.'s Depo. 127.) Once an inmate is secured
23 in a holding cell, prison officials must complete a holding cell
24 log where they document the inmate's welfare every thirty minutes.

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27 ¹Indecent exposure, while in prison, constitutes a misdemeanor
28 offense under the California Code of Regulations and is subject to
possible criminal prosecution. (Celaya Decl. ¶ 8.) See 15 Cal.
Code Regs. § 3007 ("Inmates may not participate in illegal sexual
acts").

(Camarena Decl. ¶ 5.) Even if an inmate's hands have been exposed to Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) pepper spray, he must still submit to an unclothed body search for contraband. (Salopek Decl. ¶ 6.)

The OC solution used at SVSP is called MK-9 Magnum Aerosol Pepper Projector. (Gifford Decl. ¶ 2.) The decontamination procedure listed on the label reads as follows:

Remove subject from contaminated area and position subject in an area of fresh air. . . . [C]ontinue to monitor subject throughout the decontamination process. When available, allow the subject to flush their eyes with copious amounts of fresh running water.

(Id. ¶ 3.)

II. Plaintiff's March 10, 2005 Placement in Administrative Segregation and Related Incidents

While at SVSP, Plaintiff received at least three Rules Violation Reports related to sexual misconduct. On July 24, 2004, Plaintiff was found guilty of indecent exposure for masturbating naked in front of an SVSP Medical Technical Assistant (MTA) on June 24, 2004. On April 26, 2005, Plaintiff was found guilty of sexual harassment, related to indecent exposure, for exposing himself to an SVSP nurse on March 10, 2005. On November 28, 2005, Plaintiff received a Rules Violation Report for masturbating in front of an SVSP medical technician. Plaintiff's March 10, 2005 violation gave rise to the alleged incidents for which he asserts this claim.

On March 10, 2005, at about 10:00 am, Plaintiff exposed himself to a nurse,² while she was distributing medications to

²One day prior, on March 9, 2005, Plaintiff had pressed a note to the window of his cell door and told the nurse that if she did not read it, he would "be acting like [he] did on B-Yard." (SVP-FC7-05-03-0136 Incident Report at 2.) While housed in Facility B, Plaintiff had masturbated in the nurse's presence. (Id.)

1 inmates. The nurse informed Sergeant Joshua Mensing, the
2 supervising officer for the facility in which Plaintiff was housed.
3 (Ugaz Decl. Ex. D, Rules Violation Report SVP-FC7-05-03-0136.) At
4 about 11:00 am, Sgt. Mensing ordered Defendant Camarena to escort
5 Plaintiff from his cell to the Program Office, in preparation for
6 placing Plaintiff in ad seg. (Mensing Decl. ¶ 3.) Defendant
7 Camarena told Plaintiff that he was escorting him to the Program
8 Office. Plaintiff complied with the instructions from Defendant
9 Camarena, who placed him in a holding cell in the health services
10 annex. (Camarena Decl. ¶ 6.) At 11:30 am, once Plaintiff was
11 secured in a holding cell, MTA Pulido completed a preliminary
12 medical evaluation; she found that he had no injuries and told him
13 that he was to be placed in administrative segregation. (Pl.'s
14 Depo. 97; Lee Decl. Ex. A.) Shortly thereafter, Defendant Camarena
15 ordered Plaintiff to submit to an unclothed body search, and
16 Plaintiff refused. (Pl.'s Depo. 99-101.) Defendant Camarena
17 explained that all inmates in holding cells must submit to an
18 unclothed body search, and Plaintiff again refused, demanding to
19 speak to a superior officer. (Id.)

20 Defendant Camarena then left the holding area to inform Sgt.
21 Mensing that Plaintiff was secured in a holding cell, but that he
22 refused to submit to the body search. Defendant Camarena and Sgt.
23 Mensing returned to the holding cell area, and Sgt. Mensing ordered
24 Plaintiff to comply with the search. (Mensing Decl. ¶ 5.)
25 Plaintiff became "progressively more defiant, agitated, and loud."
26 (Id.) He refused to comply until he could speak with Defendant
27 Celaya. (Pl.'s Depo. 104.) Sgt. Mensing then left the holding
28 area to inform Defendant Celaya, the supervising facility

1 lieutenant, that Plaintiff refused to submit to the search.

2 (Mensing Decl. ¶ 5.)

3 At approximately 1:00 pm, Defendants Celaya and Salopek and
4 Sgt. Mensing joined Defendant Camarena in the holding cell area.
5 (Celaya Decl. ¶ 4; Salopek Decl. ¶ 3.) Defendant Celaya ordered
6 Plaintiff to submit to the unclothed body search, and Plaintiff
7 refused. (Pl.'s Depo. 116.) Plaintiff and Defendant Celaya were
8 yelling back and forth with Plaintiff demanding to see the facility
9 captain, while pushing up against and shaking the door of his cell.
10 (Pl.'s Depo. 115; Celaya Decl. ¶ 4.) Plaintiff testifies that he
11 was "irate," and "yelling" at Defendant Celaya. (Pl.'s Depo. 100-
12 13.) Defendant Celaya refused to retrieve the facility captain,
13 and Plaintiff continued to rattle the door of his holding cell.
14 (Ugaz Decl. Ex. F, Incident Report.) Defendants demanded that he
15 stop. Plaintiff testifies that Defendant Celaya yelled, "I'm
16 giving you a direct order to strip out, if you don't I'll spray you
17 with a chemical agent and strip you out." (Pl.'s Depo. 112.)
18 Plaintiff shouted, "I don't give a fuck about your program. Spray
19 me, because I am not going to strip out." (Id. at 115.)
20 Defendants believed that Plaintiff might "seriously hurt himself."
21 (Camarena Decl. ¶ 8; Celaya Decl. ¶ 4; Salopek Decl. ¶ 4.) Sgt.
22 Mensing was also concerned that Plaintiff might break the cell door
23 and pose a danger to others. (Mensing Decl. ¶ 6.)

24 Plaintiff testifies that Defendant Celaya ordered that
25 Plaintiff be pepper sprayed. (Pl.'s Depo. 113.) Shortly
26 thereafter, for thirty to sixty seconds, Sgt. Mensing sprayed
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1 Plaintiff with a canister³ of OC, through the top of Plaintiff's
2 cell door. (Pl.'s Depo. 118; Mensing Decl. ¶ 6.) Plaintiff admits
3 that neither Defendant Salopek nor Defendant Celaya sprayed him
4 with OC. (Pl.'s Depo. 122.) At the time he was sprayed, Plaintiff
5 was wearing jeans, a "state blue" shirt, a t-shirt, tennis shoes,
6 socks and a head covering, and he was standing in the corner of his
7 cell with his back to the spray. (Id. at 119.) Plaintiff was
8 sprayed at approximately 12:45 pm. (Pl.'s Decl. Ex. N.)

9 Plaintiff testifies that, after he was sprayed, Sgt. Mensing
10 and Defendants Celaya, Camarena and Salopek left the holding cell
11 area and closed the door. (Id. at 125.) Before they left,
12 Defendant Celaya said, "[L]et me know when you are ready to strip
13 out." (Id.) Plaintiff testifies that he was trying to be "macho"
14 by not coughing, but "eventually it got the better of" him and he
15 started to cough and choke. (Id.) He states that he yelled that
16 he was ready to strip out, but that Defendant Celaya tormented him
17 by twice asking him to yell louder. (Id. at 125-26.) Plaintiff
18 testifies that three times he had to yell that he would strip out
19 before Defendant Celaya said, "Okay do it." (Id. at 126.) Then,
20 Defendants Camarena and Salopek re-entered the holding cell room to
21 conduct the strip search. (Id.) Plaintiff testifies that
22 approximately five minutes elapsed between the time he was sprayed
23 with OC and the time Defendants Camarena and Salopek opened the
24

25 ³The record refers to two canisters of OC. Plaintiff
26 testifies that Defendant Celaya sprayed him for about three seconds
27 through the cuff port in the cell door, but that his body was
28 blocking it; whereas Sgt. Mensing declares that he first attempted
to use one canister of OC that was too depleted. However, both
sides agree that Sgt. Mensing sprayed the effective canister of OC
through the top of Plaintiff's cell door.

1 door of his cell.⁴ (Id. at 125.)

2 Plaintiff then submitted to an unclothed body search in
3 compliance with orders from Defendants Camarena and Salopek. In
4 his complaint, Plaintiff alleges that, because his hands were
5 saturated with chemical spray, his genitals burned when he lifted
6 them for the body search. The entire body search lasted two to
7 three minutes. (Id. at 127.)

8 After the body search, Plaintiff complied with instructions
9 from Defendant Salopek, who placed him in handcuffs, opened the
10 cell door and ordered him to kneel. Plaintiff testifies that,
11 before he was able to kneel, Defendant Camarena twisted his right
12 wrist unnecessarily and attempted to trip him, after which he went
13 down on his knees. (Id. at 128-31.) Plaintiff also testifies
14 that, once he was kneeling, Defendant Camarena pushed him into the
15 corner of a holding cell for ten to fifteen seconds, causing him to
16 injure his shoulder. (Id. at 131-34.) While Plaintiff was down,
17 Defendants Camarena and Salopek placed leg restraints on him.⁵
18 Plaintiff testifies that, as Defendants Camarena and Salopek
19 escorted him to an outdoor area for decontamination, Defendant
20 Camarena continued to subject him to "rough handling" by twisting
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22 _____
23 ⁴Defendants declare that, after Plaintiff was sprayed, they
24 stepped into an annex outside of the holding cell area for a minute
25 or two, until they heard Plaintiff cough and say that he was ready
26 to comply with an unclothed body search; then, they immediately re-
entered the holding cell area. (Camarena Decl. ¶¶ 9-10; Celaya
Decl. ¶ 6; Salopek Decl. ¶¶ 5-6.)

27 ⁵In his complaint, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Celaya
28 directed Defendants Camarena and Salopek to put leg restraints on
Plaintiff. In his deposition, Plaintiff states, instead, that
Defendant Salopek directed Defendant Camarena to "grab the leg
irons." (Pl.'s Depo. 133.)

1 his wrist and jerking his arm.⁶ (Id. at 138.) Plaintiff admits
2 that Defendant Salopek, who was holding his left arm, did not
3 subject him to rough handling. (Id. at 139.) According to the
4 holding cell log, Plaintiff spent a total of one and a half hours
5 in the holding cell. (Pl.'s Decl. Ex. I.)

6 Once outside, Defendants Camarena and Salopek ordered
7 Plaintiff to kneel in a corner area about three feet from the wall
8 of the health services annex. (Id. at 138, 144.) Plaintiff was
9 wearing boxer shorts. Plaintiff recalls that it was close to
10 ninety degrees outside, and that he was forced to kneel on a hot
11 surface⁷ with his back exposed to the heat of the sun. (Pl.'s
12 Depo. 142-45.) Defendants state that they asked Plaintiff to
13 kneel, rather than stand, because he had been agitated earlier and
14 they felt they needed more control over him. (Salopek Decl. ¶ 8;
15 Camarena Decl. ¶ 11.) Further, they did not take Plaintiff to a
16 shower, because there was not one in the building, and because
17 decontamination is achieved with "copious amounts of air," whereas
18 water provides only temporary relief. (Id.) Also, Plaintiff might
19 have refused to exit a locked shower stall. (Mensing Decl. ¶ 8.)
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23 ⁶Sgt. Mensing observed Defendants Camarena and Salopek while
24 they placed Plaintiff in handcuffs and leg irons, and he followed
25 them as they escorted Plaintiff outside, but he did not assist in
the decontamination process. (Mensing Decl. ¶ 7.) He declares
that Defendant Camarena did not attempt to trip Plaintiff, push him
into the side of a cell, twist his arms, or taunt him. (Id.)

26 ⁷Plaintiff testifies that the surface was "asphalt." (Pl.'s
27 Depo. 145.) Defendant Camarena declares that it was "light
28 colored" cement. (Camarena Decl. ¶ 11.) Photographs of the
outdoor area indicate that at least three feet of light colored
cement abut the wall of the health services annex. (Salao Decl.
Exs. H-I.)

Plaintiff testifies that his knees began to blister, but Defendants refused his request for something to put under his knees.⁸ (Pl.'s Depo. 145.) He testifies that he felt like he was going to "pass out," but that Defendants Salopek, Colburn, Camarena and two other prison officials, who were standing in a group making "snide remarks," refused his request to see an MTA,⁹ telling him that it was just the effects of the spray. (Id. at 148.) Plaintiff also claims that Defendant Colburn told a story about trapping and cooking lobster and that he compared Plaintiff to a lobster.¹⁰ (Id. at 150-51.) Defendant Camarena recalled Plaintiff stating that he was "burning," but he believed Plaintiff was referring to the effects of the pepper spray. (Camarena Decl. ¶ 11.) Defendant Salopek also recalled that Plaintiff complained that he was "burning," but that he did not indicate that he was in severe pain. (Salopek Decl. ¶ 8.)

At approximately 1:00 pm, Defendant Celaya asked Defendant Colburn to retrieve a five-gallon bucket from the Work Crew Office. (Colburn Decl. ¶ 3.) Defendant Colburn filled the bucket with water and brought it outside to Plaintiff, who was kneeling between

⁸Defendants declare that they do not recall Plaintiff requesting something to put under his knees. (Camarena Decl. ¶ 11; Salopek Decl. ¶ 8.)

⁹Defendants Camarena and Salopek declare that, "at no point during the decontamination process did [Plaintiff] complain of any injury or need for medical attention." (Camarena Decl. ¶ 11; Salopek Decl. ¶ 8.) Defendant Colburn also declares that Plaintiff did not request medical attention. (Colburn Decl. ¶ 4.)

¹⁰Other than providing Plaintiff with water, Defendant Colburn declares that he was not involved in, nor did he observe, any other portion of the incident. (Colburn Decl. ¶ 6.) He also declares that he has never trapped or cooked lobsters and he did not joke about or compare Plaintiff to a lobster. (Id. ¶ 7.)

1 Defendants Camarena and Salopek and did not exhibit signs of
2 distress. (Id. ¶ 4.) Defendant Colburn advised Plaintiff that
3 fresh air is the best way to decontaminate and that water provides
4 only temporary relief from OC and might not stop the burning, but
5 Plaintiff insisted that he wanted the water poured over his body.
6 (Id.) Plaintiff testifies that he had been kneeling for about
7 forty minutes when Defendant Colburn brought a bucket of water
8 outside and slowly poured three gallons over his head in order to
9 "bring [him] back into consciousness." (Pl.'s Depo. 148-49, 153.)
10 Defendant Colburn then went back inside and came out with another
11 bucket of water, but Plaintiff told him not to pour it over his
12 head because he thought it was just reactivating the chemicals.¹¹
13 (Id. at 150.) Plaintiff requested some water to drink, so
14 Defendant Colburn "poured a little in [his] mouth and he left it at
15 that." (Id.) Defendant Colburn declares that he decontaminated
16 Plaintiff with water for about ten minutes, until Plaintiff
17 indicated that he did not need any more water. (Id. ¶ 5.)
18 Plaintiff recalls being outside for between forty-five minutes and
19 one hour.¹² (Pl.'s Depo. 153.)

20 Plaintiff testifies that, for the duration of his
21 decontamination, Defendant Aguirre was standing by the rear exit
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23

24 ¹¹Defendant Colburn declares that, at Plaintiff's request, he
25 refilled the five-gallon bucket twice and poured an estimated
26 fifteen gallons of water over his body. (Colburn Decl. ¶ 5.)

27 ¹²Defendant Salopek and Sgt. Mensing declare that Plaintiff was
28 on his knees for decontamination for ten to fifteen minutes.
(Salopek Decl. ¶ 8; Mensing Decl. ¶ 8.) Defendant Camarena
declares that Plaintiff was decontaminated for twenty to thirty
minutes. (Camarena Decl. ¶ 11.)

1 door, observing.¹³ (Pl.'s Depo. 142, 147.) Plaintiff admits that
2 Defendants Colburn, Salopek, and Aguirre did not use any physical
3 force against him on March 10, 2005. (Id. at 186-87.)

4 After decontamination, Plaintiff was escorted inside the
5 health services annex and placed into a holding cell for about
6 fifteen more minutes. (Pl.'s Depo. 159.) At approximately 1:00
7 pm, MTA Pulido completed another medical evaluation of Plaintiff,
8 in order to clear him for release to ad seg; MTA Pulido found no
9 injuries, and documented his exposure to and decontamination from
10 OC.¹⁴ (Pl.'s Decl. Ex. N; Salopek Decl. ¶ 9; Camarena Decl. ¶ 12.)
11 Plaintiff was then taken to ad seg by Defendants Salopek and
12 Camarena. (Pl.'s Depo. 159.) In ad seg, Plaintiff's cell mate was
13 Otis Moran. (Id. 160.)

14 A processing report, which was updated "at or near the time of
15 the event," indicates that Plaintiff was placed in ad seg at 2:05
16 pm on March 10, 2005. (Pl.'s Decl. Ex. J.) At approximately 2:20,
17 Plaintiff received a notice informing him that his ad seg placement
18 was due to sexual harassment. (Id. at 162.) Later that day, in ad
19 seg, Plaintiff was observed hitting the door of the cell and
20 hitting himself on the shoulders. (Parin Decl. ¶ 5.)

21 _____
22 ¹³Defendants Camarena and Salopek do not remember Defendant
23 Aguirre being present during the spraying of OC or subsequent
24 decontamination. (Camarena Decl. ¶ 11; Salopek Decl. ¶ 8.)
25 Defendant Aguirre declares that he was neither involved in, nor did
26 he witness, the incident on March 10, 2005. (Aguirre Decl. ¶ 7.)
27 Furthermore, if he had been involved, or witnessed the release of
28 OC, he would have been required to fill out a Rules Violation
Report or an Incident Report. (Id. ¶ 8.) He declares that he did
not draft or assist in drafting any such report. (Id.) He declares
that he never interacted with Plaintiff. (Id. ¶ 5.)

¹⁴Plaintiff alleges that this document was falsified. The
Court dismissed Plaintiff's original claim of fraud against MTA
Pulido. Plaintiff provides no evidence that the document is false.

1 On March 11, 2005, Plaintiff complained of shoulder pain, skin
2 damage and blistered knees, and he was evaluated by MTA Garcia who
3 found a scratch on Plaintiff's left shoulder, but no redness or
4 swelling and no other injuries. (Lee Decl. Ex. C; Pl.'s Decl. Ex.
5 C-D.) MTA Garcia notified an SVSP nurse about Plaintiff's scratch.
6 On March 16, 2005, Plaintiff was examined by Dr. Bowman who found
7 that his skin, back and shoulder looked normal. (Pl.'s Decl. Ex.
8 D.) Plaintiff also received an X-ray of his left shoulder, and on
9 March 18, 2005, he received the results, which indicated "[n]ormal
10 bone and joint structures." (Lee Decl. Ex. D.) Plaintiff
11 testifies that the pain in his knees subsided within two days and
12 he was never diagnosed with skin cancer. (Pl.'s Depo. 176.)

13 On June 15, 2007, SVSP Chief Medical Officer Charles Lee,
14 M.D., conducted a physical examination of Plaintiff. (Lee Decl.
15 ¶ 4.) Dr. Lee found no medical evidence of any significant,
16 residual or permanent injury to Plaintiff's shoulder, knees, skin
17 or genitals. (Id.) Dr. Lee observed that Plaintiff was able to
18 move his shoulders normally and had no damage or scarring, and that
19 he did not indicate that he was experiencing pain. (Id. ¶ 4a.)
20 Plaintiff was also able to move his knees normally without pain,
21 and Dr. Lee did not observe any scarring or abnormal coloration on
22 Plaintiff's knees. (Id. ¶ 4b.) Dr. Lee found no evidence of skin
23 damage or skin cancer related to sunburn, nor did he find any
24 residual injury to Plaintiff's genitals from the pepper spray.
25 (Id. ¶¶ 4c-4d.) Dr. Lee also reviewed Plaintiff's medical records
26 and found that the "most serious injury that [Plaintiff] suffered
27 as a result of the March 10, 2005 incident was exposure to the
28 fleeting effects of pepper spray." (Id. ¶ 5.)

LEGAL STANDARD

Summary judgment is properly granted when no genuine and disputed issues of material fact remain, and when, viewing the evidence most favorably to the non-moving party, the movant is clearly entitled to prevail as a matter of law. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56; Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322-23 (1986). The moving party bears the burden of showing that there is no material factual dispute. Therefore, the court must regard as true the opposing party's evidence, if supported by affidavits or other evidentiary material. Id. at 324. The court must draw all reasonable inferences in favor of the party against whom summary judgment is sought. Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 587 (1986); Intel Corp. v. Hartford Accident & Indem. Co., 952 F.2d 1551, 1558 (9th Cir. 1991). Material facts which would preclude entry of summary judgment are those which, under applicable substantive law, may affect the outcome of the case. The substantive law will identify which facts are material. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986).

Where the moving party does not bear the burden of proof on an issue at trial, the moving party may discharge its burden of production by either of two methods. Nissan Fire & Marine Ins. Co., Ltd., v. Fritz Cos., Inc., 210 F.3d 1099, 1106 (9th Cir. 2000). The moving party may produce evidence negating an essential element of the non-moving party's case, or, after suitable discovery, the moving party may show that the non-moving party does not have enough evidence of an essential element of its claim or defense to carry its ultimate burden of persuasion at trial. Id. If the moving party discharges its burden by showing an absence of

1 evidence to support an essential element of a claim or defense, it
2 is not required to produce evidence showing the absence of a
3 material fact on such issues, or to support its motion with
4 evidence negating the non-moving party's claim. Id. If the moving
5 party shows an absence of evidence to support the non-moving
6 party's case, the burden then shifts to the non-moving party to
7 produce "specific evidence, through affidavits or admissible
8 discovery material, to show that the dispute exists." Bhan v. NME
9 Hosps., Inc., 929 F.2d 1404, 1409 (9th Cir. 1991).

10 If the moving party discharges its burden by negating an
11 essential element of the non-moving party's claim or defense, it
12 must produce affirmative evidence of such negation. Nissan, 210
13 F.3d at 1105. If the moving party produces such evidence, the
14 burden then shifts to the non-moving party to produce specific
15 evidence to show that a dispute of material fact exists. Id.

16 If the moving party does not meet its initial burden of
17 production by either method, the non-moving party is under no
18 obligation to offer any evidence in support of its opposition. Id.
19 This is true even though the non-moving party bears the ultimate
20 burden of persuasion at trial. Id. at 1107.

21 DISCUSSION

22 I. Defendant Celaya, Camarena and Salopek's Motion for Summary
23 Judgment

24 Defendants Celaya, Camarena and Salopek move for summary
25 judgment (docket no. 34) on the grounds that there is no genuine
26 issue of material fact regarding Plaintiff's claims of excessive
27 force and deliberate indifference, and that they are entitled to
28 qualified immunity.

A. Excessive Force Claim

The following allegations form the basis of Plaintiff's excessive force claim against Defendants Celaya, Camarena and Salopek: (1) Defendants dispersed chemical agents into the holding cell where Plaintiff was located, unprovoked; (2) Defendants Camarena and Salopek forced him to touch his genitals with his OC saturated hands during an unclothed body search; (3) Defendant Camarena twisted Plaintiff's wrist and pushed him into a holding cell; and (4) Defendants Camarena and Salopek forced Plaintiff to kneel on asphalt for an hour under the extreme heat of the sun.

In order to state a claim for the use of excessive force in violation of the Eighth Amendment, Plaintiff must allege facts that, if proven, would establish that prison officials applied force "maliciously and sadistically to cause harm," rather than in a good-faith effort to maintain or restore discipline. Hudson v. McMillian, 503 U.S. 1, 6-7 (1992). The extent of injury suffered by an inmate is one of the factors to be considered in determining whether the use of force is wanton and unnecessary. Id. Not every malevolent touch by a prison guard gives rise to a federal cause of action; the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment necessarily excludes from constitutional recognition de minimis uses of physical force. Id. at 9-10. Guards may use force only in proportion to the need in each situation. Spain v. Procunier, 600 F.2d 189, 195 (9th Cir. 1979).

In determining whether the use of force was for the purpose of maintaining or restoring discipline or, rather, for the malicious and sadistic purpose of causing harm, a court may evaluate the need for application of force, the relationship between that need and

1 the amount of force used, the extent of any injury inflicted, the
2 threat reasonably perceived by the responsible officials, and any
3 efforts made to temper the severity of a forceful response.
4 Hudson, 503 U.S. at 7. However, courts must accord prison
5 administrators wide-ranging deference in the adoption and execution
6 of policies and practices to further institutional order and
7 security. Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520, 547 (1979); Jeffers v.
8 Gomez, 267 F.3d 895, 917 (9th Cir. 2001).

9 Plaintiff's complaint alleges that he did not provoke the use
10 of OC. However, he testifies that he refused to obey orders from
11 three different prison officials and that he was rattling his cell
12 door, "irate," and "yelling" at Defendant Celaya prior to being
13 sprayed with OC. Defendant Camarena ordered Plaintiff to submit to
14 an unclothed body search and Plaintiff refused. Defendant Camarena
15 repeated the order with an explanation that all inmates are
16 required to submit to an unclothed body search. Plaintiff refused
17 again, demanding to speak to a superior officer. When this
18 officer, Sgt. Mensing, arrived and repeated the order, Plaintiff
19 refused and demanded to speak to Defendant Celaya. Sgt. Mensing
20 retrieved Defendant Celaya, who repeated the order to submit to an
21 unclothed body search. At this point, Plaintiff began yelling and
22 pushing up against his cell door, causing it to shake and rattle.
23 Defendants were concerned that Plaintiff would either harm himself
24 or break out of his cell and endanger others. Plaintiff provides
25 no evidence that Defendants applied force maliciously, for the
26 purpose of causing harm.

27 In the context of Plaintiff's refusal to comply with the
28 direct orders of three SVSP officials, his disorderly behavior, and

1 the warning that he received, Defendants have demonstrated that
2 Sgt. Mensing released OC into Plaintiff's cell for the purpose of
3 maintaining order and discipline. Regardless of Defendants' role
4 in Sgt. Mensing's action, they were complying with SVSP policy,
5 which required them to use pepper spray, the lowest level of force,
6 to keep Plaintiff from hurting himself or others. See Spain v.
7 Procunier, 600 F. 2d 189, 195 (9th Cir. 1979) (where, "after
8 adequate warning," a prisoner acts in such a way to present "a
9 reasonable possibility that slight force will be required," use of
10 chemical spray "may be a legitimate means for preventing small
11 disturbances from becoming dangerous").

12 In his opposition, Plaintiff no longer contends that the use
13 of pepper spray was unprovoked, but rather, that it was unwarranted
14 because he was not allowed to speak to a prison official of higher
15 authority. Aside from the fact that Plaintiff was warned that he
16 would be sprayed with OC, to which he replied, "Spray me, because I
17 am not going to strip out," Sgt. Mensing only resorted to use of
18 force--the release the OC chemical spray into Plaintiff's cell--
19 after Plaintiff refused to comply with the direct orders of three
20 different SVSP officials. Plaintiff refused an order from
21 Defendant Camarena, a correctional officer, then from Sgt. Mensing,
22 the facility supervisor, then from Defendant Celaya, the
23 supervising facility lieutenant. Plaintiff specifically requested
24 to speak to Defendant Celaya, but when he did not get what he
25 wanted from Defendant Celaya, he became belligerent and requested
26 an audience with a higher prison official. Although prison
27 officials are not required to negotiate with inmates who refuse to
28 comply with direct orders, Plaintiff was afforded the opportunity

1 to speak with two officials of higher authority. Thus, his
2 argument is unavailing.

3 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants' order to touch his genitals
4 during the unclothed body search, after his hands were "saturated
5 in chemical agents," amounted to cruel and unusual punishment. At
6 his deposition, Plaintiff did not testify to this fact, and he
7 explained that the standard procedure for an unclothed body search
8 entails lifting ones genitals. Defendant Salopek stated that,
9 because of the danger posed by contraband hidden in body cavities,
10 inmates must submit to such a search, even if they have been
11 exposed to OC. The entire search, which included a search of
12 Plaintiff's hair, mouth and feet, took approximately two to three
13 minutes. Plaintiff does not allege that he informed Defendants
14 that he was in pain. Further, he fails to show that Defendants
15 intended to cause him harm by ordering him to submit to an
16 unclothed body search. Defendants ordered the search in compliance
17 with SVSP policy, in order to maintain institutional security.

18 Plaintiff alleges that, after he was handcuffed and complying
19 with orders, Defendant Camarena used excessive force by attempting
20 to trip him, pushing him into the frame of a holding cell door, and
21 twisting and pulling his wrists. Plaintiff testifies that, after
22 being ordered to kneel, he went down on his knees before being
23 tripped and that Defendant Camarena pushed him into the cell door
24 for no more than fifteen seconds while he was putting on
25 Plaintiff's leg restraints. He also testifies that he was escorted
26 outside by Defendants Camarena and Salopek, but that only Defendant
27 Camarena, who was holding Plaintiff's right arm, twisted his wrist
28 and jerked his arm. Plaintiff admits that Defendant Salopek did

1 not apply any force that day. Plaintiff's medical evaluations,
2 prior to, and after the incident indicate the Plaintiff did not
3 sustain any injuries, such as cuts, abrasions, swelling or bruises.
4 Construing Plaintiff's allegations as true, that Defendant Camarena
5 subjected him to "rough handling," the Eighth Amendment does not
6 protect against such de minimis use of physical force.

7 Plaintiff claims that Defendants Camarena and Salopek
8 subjected him to torture by forcing him to kneel, for forty-five
9 minutes, on hot asphalt, under the "extreme heat" of the sun.
10 Plaintiff claims that Defendants refused his requests for a cloth
11 to put under his knees, resulting in blisters. The photographic
12 evidence indicates that Plaintiff was kneeling on light colored
13 cement,¹⁵ not asphalt, and Plaintiff testifies that he was kneeling
14 for approximately forty-five minutes. Defendants declare that they
15 asked Plaintiff to kneel as a safety precaution, based on his
16 previous behavior. SVSP policy states that forty-five minutes is
17 the amount of time necessary for dissipation of all effects of OC
18 exposure. Both SVSP policy and the instructions on the canister of
19 OC specify that decontamination is best achieved by exposing the
20 individual to fresh air. Defendants decontaminated Plaintiff in
21 the manner that they did for the purpose of safely alleviating the
22 effects of the OC spray, in compliance with SVSP policy, and not

23 ¹⁵Defendants cite Scott v. Harris, 127 S. Ct. 1769, 1776
24 (2007), for the proposition that, "[w]hen opposing parties tell
25 different stories, one of which is blatantly contradicted by the
26 record, so that no reasonable jury could believe it, a court should
27 not adopt that version of the facts for purposes of ruling on a
28 motion for summary judgment." In Scott, the Court held that a
police officer was entitled to summary judgment, based on qualified
immunity, in light of video evidence that utterly discredited the
plaintiff's claim. Id. The photographs in the instant case
provide such uncontrovertible evidence about the surface on which
Plaintiff was asked to kneel.

1 for the malicious or sadistic purpose of causing harm.

2 As with his previous allegations, Plaintiff presents no
3 evidence that he sustained anything more than de minimis injury to
4 his skin or knees as a result of either the "extreme heat" of the
5 sun or the heat of the surface on which he was kneeling. MTA
6 Pulido's post-decontamination assessment found no injury to
7 Plaintiff's knees or skin. MTA Garcia, who examined Plaintiff the
8 next day, found no blisters, swelling or redness on his knees, back
9 or shoulder. Dr. Lee's subsequent physical examination and review
10 of Plaintiff's medical records revealed no lasting injury.
11 Plaintiff's only evidence of injury arising from hot weather is a
12 declaration from Mr. Moran, another inmate, who looked at
13 Plaintiff's back on March 10, 2005, and saw some discoloration of
14 the skin and evidence of sunburn. (Moran Decl. at 2.) Further,
15 Plaintiff testified that the pain in his knees subsided after two
16 days and that he was never diagnosed with skin cancer or other skin
17 problems.

18 Plaintiff fails to establish that Defendants Celaya, Camarena
19 or Salopek applied force in a malicious or sadistic manner or that
20 he suffered more than de minimis injury. Accordingly, these
21 Defendants are entitled to summary judgment on the excessive force
22 claims as a matter of law.

23 B. Deliberate Indifference Claim

24 Plaintiff's deliberate indifference claim against Defendants
25 Camarena and Salopek stems from the following allegations:

26 (1) they were deliberately indifferent to his needs by not
27 promptly releasing him from the holding cell area to decontaminate
28 him from the effects of OC and by not allowing him to shower after

1 being sprayed with OC; (2) they refused medical treatment for his
2 shoulder, which was bruised after he was pushed into the side of a
3 holding cell; and (3) they refused medical treatment for his knees,
4 which blistered when he was forced to kneel during the outdoor
5 decontamination process.

6 The Constitution does not mandate comfortable prisons, but
7 neither does it permit inhumane ones. Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S.
8 825, 832 (1994). The treatment a prisoner receives in prison and
9 the conditions under which he is confined are subject to scrutiny
10 under the Eighth Amendment. Helling v. McKinney, 509 U.S. 25, 31
11 (1993).

12 Deliberate indifference to serious medical needs violates the
13 Eighth Amendment's proscription against cruel and unusual
14 punishment. Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 104 (1976); McGuckin
15 v. Smith, 974 F.2d 1050, 1059 (9th Cir. 1992), overruled on other
16 grounds, WMX Technologies, Inc. v. Miller, 104 F.3d 1133, 1136 (9th
17 Cir. 1997) (en banc). A determination of "deliberate indifference"
18 involves an examination of two elements: the seriousness of the
19 prisoner's medical need and the nature of the defendant's response
20 to that need. Id.

21 A "serious" medical need exists if the failure to treat a
22 prisoner's condition could result in further significant injury or
23 the "unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain." Id. (citing
24 Estelle, 429 U.S. at 104). The existence of an injury that a
25 reasonable doctor or patient would find important and worthy of
26 comment or treatment; the presence of a medical condition that
27 significantly affects an individual's daily activities; or the
28 existence of chronic and substantial pain are examples of

1 indications that a prisoner has a "serious" need for medical
2 treatment. Id. at 1059-60 (citing Wood v. Housewright, 900 F.2d
3 1332, 1337-41 (9th Cir. 1990)).

4 A prison official is deliberately indifferent if he or she
5 knows that a prisoner faces a substantial risk of serious harm and
6 disregards that risk by failing to take reasonable steps to abate
7 it. Farmer, 511 U.S. at 837. The prison official must not only
8 "be aware of facts from which the inference could be drawn that a
9 substantial risk of serious harm exists," but "must also draw the
10 inference." Id. If a prison official should have been aware of
11 the risk, but was not, then the official has not violated the
12 Eighth Amendment, no matter how severe the risk. Gibson v. County
13 of Washoe, 290 F.3d 1175, 1188 (9th Cir. 2002).

14 In order for deliberate indifference to be established,
15 therefore, there must be a purposeful act or failure to act on the
16 part of the defendant and resulting harm. McGuckin, 974 F.2d at
17 1060; Shapley v. Nevada Bd. of State Prison Comm'rs, 766 F.2d 404,
18 407 (9th Cir.1985). A finding that the defendant's activities
19 resulted in "substantial" harm to the prisoner is not necessary,
20 however. Neither a finding that a defendant's actions are
21 egregious nor that they resulted in significant injury to a
22 prisoner is required to establish a violation of the prisoner's
23 federal constitutional rights, McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1060, 1061,
24 but the existence of serious harm tends to support an inmate's
25 deliberate indifference claims, Jett v. Penner, 439 F.3d 1091, 1096
26 (9th Cir. 2006).

27 Once the prerequisites are met, it is up to the fact-finder to
28 determine whether the defendant exhibited deliberate indifference.

1 Such indifference may appear when prison officials deny, delay or
2 intentionally interfere with medical treatment, or it may be shown
3 in the way in which prison officials provide medical care.

4 McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1062 (delay of seven months in providing
5 medical care during which medical condition was left virtually
6 untreated and plaintiff was forced to endure "unnecessary pain"
7 sufficient to present colorable § 1983 claim).

8 Plaintiff asserts that the effects of exposure to OC, a
9 bruised shoulder, and blistered knees amounted to serious medical
10 needs. After Plaintiff was decontaminated, he was examined by MTA
11 Pulido, who listed no evidence of injury, and who documented
12 Plaintiff's decontamination from OC spray. Dr. Lee's 2007 physical
13 examination found no long-term or lasting skin, knee, shoulder or
14 OC related injuries. The only medical evidence of an injury is a
15 March 11, 2005 report of a scratch on Plaintiff's shoulder,
16 unaccompanied by bruising or swelling. An X-ray of Plaintiff's
17 shoulder, taken on March 12, 2005, two days after the incident,
18 revealed no bone or joint injury. Therefore, Plaintiff has failed
19 to show that he suffered from a serious medical need within the
20 meaning of the Eighth Amendment. However, had Plaintiff's medical
21 needs been serious, he would need to show that Defendants were
22 deliberately indifferent.

23 Plaintiff argues that he was subjected to a period of
24 deliberate delay in addressing his medical needs after he was
25 exposed to OC, because Defendants Salopek and Camarena did not
26 immediately release him from his holding cell. Five minutes
27 elapsed between the time Plaintiff was sprayed and the time
28 Defendants opened his cell door to perform a strip search.

1 Plaintiff claims that, while coughing and choking, he had to twice
2 repeat the affirmation that he was ready to comply with the
3 unclothed body search, before he was released. However, he also
4 testifies that he was trying to be "macho" so purposely did not
5 indicate that he would comply, until he succumbed to coughing.
6 Immediately after the search, Defendants Salopek and Camarena took
7 Plaintiff outside to be decontaminated from the effects of the OC
8 spray. Viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to
9 Plaintiff, and assuming that it took five minutes to release him
10 from the cell, Defendants' delay does not amount to deliberate
11 indifference to his medical need.

12 Plaintiff claims that Defendants Salopek and Camarena were
13 deliberately indifferent to his need to be decontaminated from the
14 effects of the OC spray by taking him outside, rather than allowing
15 him to shower. Defendants placed Plaintiff outside to
16 decontaminate from the effects of the spray based on both SVSP
17 policy and the OC manufacturer's instructions for decontamination
18 that prescribe exposure to fresh air as the best method for
19 decontamination. Plaintiff complained that he was "burning" and
20 admits that he received a gentle dousing with water. He admits
21 that he then refused a second dousing because the water only
22 reactivated the "chemical agents" in the OC spray. Plaintiff does
23 not say that he requested a shower. The holding cell facility did
24 not have a shower, and Defendants were concerned that placing
25 Plaintiff in a locked shower would only re-instigate his previous
26 disruptive behavior. The evidence indicates that Defendants were
27 not deliberately indifferent by decontaminating Plaintiff by
28 exposing him to fresh air in an outdoor area.

1 Plaintiff asserts that Defendants were deliberately
2 indifferent by denying access to medical care for his bruised
3 shoulder. Accepting, for the purposes of this motion, that
4 Plaintiff asked to see an MTA, and Defendants did not retrieve one
5 while Plaintiff was undergoing decontamination in the outdoor area,
6 he received a follow up examination after decontamination. MTA
7 Pulido conducted a medical evaluation of Plaintiff at approximately
8 1:00 pm, medically clearing him to enter ad seg. Another MTA
9 examined Plaintiff on March 11, 2005, noting a "small abrasion" on
10 Plaintiff's right shoulder, but no redness or swelling. As a
11 precaution, however, Plaintiff received an X-ray on March 16, 2005,
12 which found nothing wrong with his shoulder. The undisputed
13 evidence indicates that Plaintiff was provided ample access to
14 medical care for his shoulder.

15 Plaintiff argues that Defendants were deliberately indifferent
16 to his blistered knees by not providing him a cloth to kneel on.
17 MTA Pulado, who conducted a medical evaluation after Plaintiff's
18 decontamination, did not document any blisters. Plaintiff does not
19 claim that he requested, or was denied, medical assistance
20 regarding his knees. He also testifies that any pain in his knees
21 subsided after two days. That he was not given a cloth to kneel
22 on, and as a result may have experienced some discomfort, does not
23 rise to the level of deliberate indifference.

24 Consequently, Defendants Salopek and Camarena are entitled to
25 summary judgment on Plaintiff's deliberate indifference claim.

26 C. Qualified Immunity Defense

27 In the alternative, Defendants Celaya, Salopek and Camarena
28 assert that they are entitled to summary judgment based on

1 qualified immunity.

2 The defense of qualified immunity protects "government
3 officials . . . from liability for civil damages insofar as their
4 conduct does not violate clearly established statutory or
5 constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have
6 known." Harlow v. Fitzgerald, 457 U.S. 800, 818 (1982). The rule
7 of qualified immunity protects "'all but the plainly incompetent or
8 those who knowingly violate the law.'" Saucier v. Katz, 533 U.S.
9 194, 202 (2001) (quoting Malley v. Briggs, 475 U.S. 335, 341
10 (1986)). A defendant may have a reasonable, but mistaken, belief
11 about the facts or about what the law requires in any given
12 situation. Id. "Therefore, regardless of whether the
13 constitutional violation occurred, the [official] should prevail if
14 the right asserted by the plaintiff was not 'clearly established'
15 or the [official] could have reasonably believed that his
16 particular conduct was lawful." Romero v. Kitsap County, 931 F.2d
17 624, 627 (9th Cir. 1991).

18 To determine whether a defendant is entitled to qualified
19 immunity, the court must engage in the following inquiries. At the
20 outset, the court must determine whether the plaintiff has alleged
21 the deprivation of an actual constitutional right. Conn v.
22 Gabbert, 526 U.S. 286, 290 (1999). In other words, the court must
23 ask, "Taken in the light most favorable to the party asserting the
24 injury, do the facts alleged show the officer's conduct violated a
25 constitutional right?" Brosseau v. Haugen, 543 U.S. 194, 197
26 (2004); Saucier, 533 U.S. at 201. If this inquiry yields a
27 positive answer, then the court proceeds to determine if the right
28 was "clearly established." Id.

1 The inquiry as to whether the right at issue was clearly
2 established must be made in light of the specific context of the
3 case, not as a broad general proposition. Saucier, 533 U.S. at
4 202. "Although earlier cases involving 'fundamentally similar'
5 facts can provide especially strong support for a conclusion that
6 the law is clearly established, they are not necessary to such a
7 finding." Hope v. Pelzer, 536 U.S. 730, 741 (2002). As the
8 Supreme Court has explained, "officials can still be on notice that
9 their conduct violates established law even in novel factual
10 circumstances." Id. at 753. The plaintiff bears the burden of
11 proving the existence of a clearly established right at the time of
12 the allegedly impermissible conduct. Maraziti v. First Interstate
13 Bank, 953 F.2d 520, 523 (9th Cir. 1992).

14 If the law is determined to be clearly established, the next
15 question is whether, under that law, a reasonable official could
16 have believed his or her conduct was lawful in the situation
17 confronted. Act Up!/Portland v. Bagley, 988 F.2d 868, 871-72 (9th
18 Cir. 1993). If the law did not put the officer on notice that his
19 or her conduct would be clearly unlawful, summary judgment based on
20 qualified immunity is appropriate. Saucier, 533 U.S. at 202.
21 Therefore, qualified immunity shields an officer from suit when he
22 or she makes a decision that, even if constitutionally deficient,
23 reasonably misapprehends the law governing the circumstances he or
24 she confronted. Id. at 206. The defendant bears the burden of
25 establishing that his or her actions were reasonable, even though
26 he or she violated the plaintiff's constitutional rights. Doe v.
27 Petaluma City School Dist., 54 F.3d 1447, 1450 (9th Cir. 1995).

1 Construing the evidence in Plaintiff's favor, the Court has
2 found that Defendants' actions did not amount to cruel and unusual
3 punishment. Even if Defendants had violated Plaintiff's Eighth
4 Amendment rights, though, they are entitled to qualified immunity
5 because they have produced sufficient evidence to show that they
6 could have believed that their actions were reasonable under the
7 circumstances of each claim as outlined below.

8 Defendants Celaya, Salopek and Camarena did not act
9 unreasonably in condoning Sgt. Mensing's act of spraying Plaintiff
10 with a canister of OC. Plaintiff has a history of sexual
11 misconduct at SVSP, and on the morning of the incident, he sexually
12 harassed an SVSP nurse. In accord with SVSP policy, Sgt. Mensing
13 ordered Defendant Camarena to escort Plaintiff from his cell to the
14 Program Office, in preparation for placing Plaintiff in ad seg,
15 pending a review of the incident. Defendant Camarena also followed
16 SVSP policy by placing Plaintiff in a holding cell, in order to
17 process him into the ad seg facility. Defendants Celaya and
18 Camarena and Sgt. Mensing then followed procedure by ordering
19 Plaintiff to submit to an unclothed body search. Based on
20 Plaintiff's ensuing disruptive and physically harmful behavior,
21 reasonable prison officials could have believed that the decision
22 to release OC spray was warranted.

23 Defendant Camarena did not act unreasonably during the process
24 of shackling Plaintiff and moving him from the holding cell to the
25 outside area for decontamination. Even if Defendant Camarena
26 subjected Plaintiff to rough handling, the circumstances were such
27 that a reasonably prudent officer could have acted similarly. Just
28 minutes before, Plaintiff had been yelling and throwing himself

1 against his cell wall while refusing to comply with orders.

2 Defendant Camarena's possible de minimis application of force, in
3 placing Plaintiff in leg restraints and escorting him outside, was
4 not clearly unlawful. Plaintiff provides no evidence that he
5 sustained any injury to his wrist or more than a minor scratch on
6 his shoulder.

7 Lastly, Defendants Camarena and Salopek acted reasonably by
8 bringing Plaintiff to an outdoor area to decontaminate from the
9 effects of OC spray and by having him kneel. Defendants followed
10 SVSP's decontamination policy by exposing Plaintiff to fresh air.
11 The holding cell area did not have a shower and it was contaminated
12 with OC. Reasonable officers in Defendants' position would have
13 decided to take Plaintiff outside to decontaminate. Defendants'
14 decision to have Plaintiff kneel was not unreasonable, based on his
15 previous combative behavior. Both Defendants also acted reasonably
16 in construing Plaintiff's complaints of "burning" as stemming from
17 the effects of the OC. Even if a constitutional violation had
18 occurred, it would not have been clear to a reasonable officer in
19 Defendants' position that the conduct violated the prohibition
20 against excessive force or deliberate indifference to a serious
21 medical need.

22 Consequently, Defendants Celaya, Camarena and Salopek are
23 entitled to qualified immunity. For this and the foregoing
24 reasons, the Court GRANTS Defendants' motion for summary judgment.

25 II. Defendant Colburn and Aguirre's Motion for Summary Judgment

26 Defendants Colburn and Aguirre move for summary judgment
27 (docket no. 81) on the grounds that there is no genuine issue of
28 material fact and they are entitled to qualified immunity.

1 A. Excessive Force Claim

2 Plaintiff's sole allegation against Defendant Aguirre is that
3 he was standing by a rear exit door in the outdoor area where
4 Plaintiff was decontaminated. Plaintiff does not allege that
5 Defendant Aguirre engaged in unlawful conduct, and thus, he fails
6 to state a claim against him.

7 Plaintiff's only allegation against Defendant Colburn is that
8 he offered him water during the decontamination process. Plaintiff
9 complained that he was "burning," so Defendant Colburn slowly
10 poured approximately three gallons of water over Plaintiff's head.
11 After the first bucket was empty, he retrieved another and offered
12 to pour it over Plaintiff's head. Plaintiff refused, asking
13 instead for a drink of water, and Defendant Colburn gave him one.

14 Plaintiff admits that neither Defendant Colburn nor Aguirre
15 applied force against him on March 10, 2005. Thus, Defendants
16 Aguirre and Colburn are entitled to summary judgment on Plaintiff's
17 excessive force claim.

18 B. Deliberate Indifference Claim

19 Plaintiff does not allege any purposeful act or failure to act
20 by Defendant Aguirre and thus, he fails to state a deliberate
21 indifference claim against him. Plaintiff argues that Defendant
22 Colburn was deliberately indifferent because he poured some water
23 on his head, in order to prolong his pain by reactivating the
24 "chemical agents" in the OC spray.

25 As explained above, Plaintiff suffered no lasting injury from
26 the effects of OC spray. The effects of OC spray are fully
27 alleviated in forty-five minutes. Forty-five minutes is the amount
28 of time that Plaintiff testifies he was placed outside for the

1 decontamination process. Plaintiff states that he asked for water.
2 Even if the water that Defendant Colburn subsequently poured over
3 Plaintiff's head did renew the burning sensation caused by the OC
4 spray, Plaintiff has failed to show that Defendant Colburn acted
5 with the intent of causing pain. Plaintiff does not allege that he
6 requested medical assistance from Defendant Colburn. Further, the
7 fact that Defendant Colburn did not continue to pour water over
8 Plaintiff's head, after Plaintiff informed him to stop, indicates
9 that he did not intend to purposefully prolong Plaintiff's pain.

10 Accordingly, Defendants Aguirre and Colburn are entitled to
11 summary judgment on Plaintiff's deliberate indifference claim.

12 C. Qualified Immunity Defense

13 Plaintiff fails to state a claim against Defendant Aguirre,
14 and he has not established that Defendant Colburn's conduct
15 amounted to a violation of the constitutional prohibition on cruel
16 and unusual punishment. Even if an Eighth Amendment violation had
17 occurred, Defendant Colburn acted reasonably under the
18 circumstances, as discussed above.

19 Accordingly, Defendants Colburn and Aguirre are entitled to
20 qualified immunity. For the reasons discussed above, the Court
21 GRANTS Defendants' motion for summary judgment.

22 CONCLUSION

23 For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

24 1. The motion for summary judgment brought by Defendants
25 Celaya, Camarena and Salopek (docket no. 34) is GRANTED.

26 2. The motion for summary judgment brought by Defendants
27 Colburn and Aguirre (docket no. 81) is GRANTED.

28 3. This Order terminates Docket nos. 34 and 81.

1 4. The Court shall enter judgment and close the file. Each
2 party shall bear his own costs.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED.

4
5 Dated: 4/11/08



CLAUDIA WILKEN
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANDRE L. HART,

Plaintiff,

v.

J. CELAYA et al,

Defendant.

Case Number: CV06-02519 CW

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on April 11, 2008, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Andre L. Hart #:D-18158
Substance Abuse Treatment Facility
C6-124
P.O. Box 7100
Corcoran, CA 93212

Jonathan Lloyd Wolff
CA State Attorney General's Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue Ste 11000
San Francisco, CA 94102-7004

Dated: April 11, 2008

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
By: Sheilah Cahill, Deputy Clerk

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California